

**State Board of Education Meeting Audio - Part 1 1:38:55**  
**Opening, Call to Order, Roll Call, Approval of Agenda, Approval of Minutes, Formal Public Comment, Committee Reports from State Board Members, Literacy Campaign Information, Secretary's Report, Showcase of Innovation and Recognition of Administrators of the Year**

Meeting called to order at 1:12 p.m. The following members of the State Board were present: Dr. Teri Quinn Gray, President; Jorge Melendez, Vice President; Gregory B. Coverdale, Jr.; G. Patrick Heffernan, Barbara B. Rutt and Terry M. Whittaker. Secretary of Education Mark Murphy was present to serve as the Executive Secretary for the State Board and the Board's Executive Director, Donna Johnson, was also present. Randall L. Hughes arrived after roll was called.

Attached is the sign in sheet of attendees for the Board meeting. The agenda was approved as presented. The motion was made by Mr. Coverdale and seconded by Dr. Whittaker. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote/

Minutes from the regular meeting of January 15, 2015 were distributed prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Melendez to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coverdale and carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mike Matthews signed up to make public comment. He is President of the Red Clay Education Association and a fifth grade teacher at Warner Elementary. He commented that many schools lack the technology capacity for the Smarter Balanced assessment and currently the library and computer lab at his school are being used for practice tests which makes the computers unavailable to other students. He also spoke on the option for parents to opt out of the state testing. He stated that parents are not against testing in general but have definite concerns with the Smarter Balanced assessment.

Steve Fackenthall from the Red Clay Education Association spoke on the morale of teachers in the state and their lack of trust due to the decisions of the Department of Education. He stated that Race to the Top money did not go to the students and noted that conversations with communities on DPAS would have been beneficial and teachers need to be part of the conversation.

Susan Francis, Executive Director for the Delaware School Boards Association, spoke on the "stand up 4 public education" campaign and distributed wrist bands. She thanked Mr. Melendez for his report last month that focused on specific positive things happening in our public schools.

Board members highlighted their monthly activities including Mr. Melendez attending the Martin Luther King Celebration in Wilmington while Mrs. Rutt attended a Martin Luther King event at Banneker Elementary in Milford. Mrs. Rutt also represented the State Board at the DSBA Board meeting. Mr. Heffernan noted the accolades of a team at Concord High School received for the conveyor system they designed.

Ms. Johnson announced the State Board's professional development workshop on March 4<sup>th</sup> that will focus on intellectual freedom. Ms. Johnson also submitted, as requested by the State Board last month, a grant to the National Association of State Boards of Education for the State

Board to continue the Board's public outreach by offering workshops and providing speakers and information. Ms. Johnson also provided an update on the State Board's Literacy Campaign.

Secretary Murphy provided his monthly report. He highlighted the Martin Luther King Celebration as well as Secretary Arnie Duncan's visit from the morning.

#### Showcase of Innovation

Melissa Blair Tracy presented to the State Board a presentation on the Hope Street Group Fellow Project on Student Surveys with a focus on the teacher leadership hybrid role and the different teacher leadership opportunities in the state. Ms. Tracy is a National Board Certified Social Studies teacher in Wilmington at Conrad Schools of Science, where she has been for eight years. She currently teaches AP Human Geography in a distance-learning lab, along with world history, personal finance, AP Comparative Government and Politics, and legal process. She shared how student surveys can improve instructional practice and shows that the student voice matters and students possess unique knowledge about classroom characteristics that can be used to improve instructional practice. Ms. Tracy provided the Board with recommendations to pilot the student experience surveys statewide.

#### Administrators of the Year

Dr. Gray noted that every February the State Board of Education has the privilege to recognize leaders in our schools and districts. The Board, along with Secretary Murphy recognized the following administrators:

- The American Association of School Administrators' National Superintendent of the Year Program pays tribute to the talent and vision of the men and women who lead our nation's public schools. This program is sponsored by Aramark, VALIC and AASA. The Delaware 2014 Superintendent of the Year is Dr. Michael Thomas from the Capital School District. Dr. Thomas has also announced that he will be retiring June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- The National Distinguished Principals program honors outstanding elementary and middle-level administrators who ensure that America's children acquire a sound foundation for lifelong learning and achievement. The program was established in 1984 to recognize and celebrate elementary and middle-level principals who set high standards for instruction, student achievement, character, and climate for the students, families, and staffs in their learning communities. The 2014 Delaware recipient of the National Distinguished Principal is Dr. Sherry Kijowski as principal of the McIlvaine Early Childhood Center. Dr. Kijowski has since accepted a new position as the principal at Caesar Rodney High School. Joining Dr. Kijowski was district superintendent Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald Superintendent from the Caesar Rodney School District.
- The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) National Principal of the Year program recognizes outstanding middle level and high school principals who have succeeded in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students as well as demonstrating exemplary contributions to the profession.

-- The 2014 Delaware recipient of the Secondary Principal of the Year is Mark Pruitt from Conrad School of Science in the Red Clay Consolidated School District. Joining Mr. Pruitt was Sam Golder, Director of Secondary School Operations for the district.

-- The 2014 Delaware recipient of the Middle Level Principal of the Year is Neil Beahan from the Southern Delaware School of the Arts in the Indian River School District.

- The Charter School Impact Award recognizes a school leader that has made a significant impact on Delaware's education community. The 2014 recipient is Nick Manolakos, Headmaster from Odyssey Charter School. Joining Mr. Manolakos was his wife Paula.

Also introduced by Dr. Gray were Kevin Carson, Executive Director of the Delaware Association of School Administrators and Kendall Massett, Executive Director for the Charter School Network. Congratulations were extended to all.

The Board recessed from 2:50 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**State Board of Education Meeting Audio – Part 2 1:43:12**  
**Presentation of Alternative Routes to Certification Report, Graduation Rate and Dropout Rate Presentation, Professional Standards Board**

Alternative Routes to Teacher Certification Report

Steve Cartwright, Kim Robinson, Henry May and Richard Engersoll from TEMPO presented to the State Board a report that evaluates the performance of the state's alternative routes to teacher licensure and certification. The report focused on research questions on teacher supply, effectiveness in the classroom and retention in the profession. The findings of the report suggest that teachers that use alternative routes are filling critical vacancies in the state. Teach for America and the University of Delaware Alternative Routes to Certification continue into the second year of teaching at similar rates of traditional teachers. Shana Young from the Delaware Department of Education was present to respond to questions from the Board.

Graduation Rate and Dropout Rate Presentation

Challis Breithaupt presented the summary of the 2013-14 graduation and dropout data. For the class of 2014, out of a cohort of 9714 students, 8202 graduated which equals a graduation rate of 84.4%. The Board received information on the rate for each high school. The graduation rate is defined as the ESEA four year adjusted cohort graduation rate. The dropout rate is calculated for grades 9 through 12 as prescribed by the National Center for Education Statistics and the total number of students who dropped out in a single year, divided by the total enrollment of the same school year. For the 2013-14 school year the annual dropout rate is 2.1% which is a decrease from the previous year's rate of 2.9%. The most recent national dropout rate is 3.3% from 2012. The Board received information on dropouts by race and gender as well as by county in the State.

Professional Standards Board

Chris Kenton, Executive Director for the Professional Standards Board presented Professional Standards Board's items.

Regulation 1507 Alternate Routes to Teacher Licensure and Certification Program was presented for action and it was noted that it was part of the five year review cycle. A motion was made by Mrs. Rutt to consent to amending the regulation as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coverdale and carried unanimously by voice vote. The appropriate Order was signed by the Board.

Regulation 1559 Skilled and Technical Science Teacher was presented for publication. A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker to consent to publication of amended regulation 1559. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously by voice vote. (Mr. Hughes was not present at time of vote).

Regulation 1590 Delaware Administrator Standards was presented for publication. A motion was made by Mrs. Rutt to consent to publication of regulation 1590 which is being reauthorized without any changes as part of the five year review cycle. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried unanimously by voice vote. (Mr. Hughes was not present at time of vote).

The Board recessed from 4:44 p.m. to 4:51 p.m. Mr. Coverdale asked to be excused at this time due to a prior commitment.

**State Board of Education Meeting Audio – Part 3 1:27:11**  
**Presentation of Update on ESEA Flexibility, Department Regulations**

ESEA Flexibility Update

Penny Schwinn and Ryan Reyna from the Office of Accountability presented an update on the ESEA Flexibility Renewal Application. The Board was provided with a comparison of No Child Left Behind and the ESEA Flexibility as well as the comparison of the three principles with the flexibility and without the flexibility. Ms. Schwinn highlighted the community presentations and town hall meetings to date as well as future planned meetings. The Board also heard some of the feedback from their community presentations. There was discussion on the Epilogue language to develop interim regulations that would need to be developed until a decision is rendered by the U.S. Department of Education. The Board will have another work session on the ESEA Flexibility Application prior to the March meeting and action on the application will also be requested next month.

Department Regulations

Tina Shockley, the Department's Policy Advisor, presented the Department's regulations

Regulation 902 Gifted or Talented Education Plan

This is a new regulation and it was presented for discussion. Deb Hansen from the Teaching and Learning Branch assisted in presenting the regulation and respond to questions. There were questions regarding the short timeline for development and implementation of these new plans.

Regulation 923 Children with Disabilities Subpart B General Duties and Eligibility of Agencies

The amendments to this regulation were presented for discussion. Staff from the Exceptional Children Resources Work Group was present to respond to questions.

Regulation 925 Children with Disabilities Subpart D Evaluations, Eligibility Determination, Individualized Education Programs

The amendments to this regulation were presented for discussion. Staff from the Exceptional Children Resources Work Group was present to respond to questions.

**State Board of Education Meeting Audio – Part 4 17:12**  
**Charter School Items, Executive Session**

Charter Schools

Jen Nagourney from the Charter School Office provided the charter items. She stated that the State Annual Charter School Report was posted online. The monthly charter update showed that the application of LEAN Tech Academy and Vine's Preparatory Charter School did not meet the full review standard and would not be moving forward. The Board received the formal review timeline for Family Foundations and the three major modifications received. Academic Antonia Alonso to decrease student enrollment; Early College High School to remove the enrollment preferences; and Freire Charter School to decrease student enrollment and remove the enrollment preference. These will all be presented for action in March. Five new charter schools are scheduled to open in August 2015 and Moyer and Reach Academy are scheduled to close in June 2015.

Executive Session

P.T-J. v Smyrna School District 2014-03 and Q.T-J. v. Smyrna School District 2014-04

A motion was made by Mr. Hughes that the State Board go into Executive Session for the purposes of considering this student appeals and the students' pupil file. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously by voice vote. (Mr. Coverdale not present at time of vote). The Board entered into Executive Session at 6:35 p.m.

The Board returned to open session on a motion by Dr. Whittaker. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously by voice vote. (Mr. Coverdale not present at time of vote). The Board returned to open session at 6:47 p.m.

**State Board of Education Meeting Audio – Part 5 5:05**  
**Appeals and Information Items and Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Heffernan that having read and considered the records of the proceedings below, including the hearing transcripts, any submissions to the hearing officer including exceptions and comments filed by the parties, and the Proposed Order and it appearing the decision is fully supported by the record, free of legal error, and otherwise within the Board's powers, the Proposed Orders of the Hearing Officer be accepted and adopted as the Decision and Order of the State Board of Education. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried unanimously by voice vote. (Mr. Coverdale not present at time of vote). The State Board signed the appropriate Orders.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Hughes to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously by voice vote. (Mr. Coverdale not present at time of vote).

February 19, 2015

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted;

Mark T. Murphy, Executive Secretary  
and Secretary of Education

**Executive Session  
Appeals and Reviews**

Ilona Kirshon, Deputy Attorney General highlighted the appeal items.

Since school disciplinary matters are confidential the Board entered into Executive Session pursuant to 29 *Del. C.* § 10004(b)(7). The motion was made by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously. (Mr. Coverdale was not present at time of vote). The Board went into Executive Session at 6:35 p.m. The Board discussed the appeal with Ms. Kirshon. The Board returned to open session at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted;

Mark T. Murphy, Executive Secretary  
and Secretary of Education